

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
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**Testimony to the Energy and Technology Committee
March 1, 2018**

**Governor's Bill No. 9
An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future**

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the state. Our mission is to provide our customers with high-quality water at a reasonable cost while promoting the preservation of watershed land and aquifers. We provide approximately 45 million gallons of water per day to some 430,000 consumers in 15 communities in our region. The source of this water is a system of watershed and aquifer areas that cover about 120 square miles within 24 municipalities. Much of our 27,000 acres of land is managed for watershed protection, timber resource conservation, wildlife habitat, open space, education and research.

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the **Governor's Bill No. 9 An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future**.

The RWA strongly supports expansion of **Virtual Net Metering (VNM)** hosts to include political subdivisions of the state. Broadening **VNM** hosts to include political subdivisions of the state would enable the RWA to participate and benefit from **VNM**. This expansion would support Connecticut's Energy Strategy and allow us to further our commitment to energy efficiency and environmental sustainability while helping us mitigate our operational costs through reduced energy expenditures that ultimately result in lower water rates for our customers.

As a public water supplier serving 15 communities in the Greater New Haven area, the RWA operates more than 120 pump stations and treatment facilities throughout our water district. Not all of these facilities are in locations well-suited for the placement of renewable energy equipment. Shade from surrounding trees or structures, aspect and terrain can dramatically decrease the amount of renewable energy that can be captured. In addition, some sites may have constraints due to local building codes or other property restrictions or covenants that limit the viability of a renewable energy installation. As a result, we purchase substantial amounts of electricity to power our treatment and pumping facilities.

With **VNM**, the RWA would be able to take advantage of renewable energy efficiencies and lower energy costs by siting renewable energy equipment at only the most appropriate locations. With **VNM**, a renewable energy installation at one facility would reduce conventional electricity loads at that facility, as well as at pump stations and other treatment plants in additional locations. This would allow the most effective use of the RWA's resources and would help us continue to reduce our carbon footprint by increasing the proportion of electricity used from clean sources.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments related to the **Governor's Bill No. 9 An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future**. If you have additional questions, please contact Lori Vitagliano, Government and Public Relations Specialist, at 203-401-2720 or by email at lvitagliano@rwater.com.